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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

Official Records

First Committee
25th meeting
Wednesday, 17 July 2002, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Erdös ..... (Hungary)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. De Loecker (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Election of the Chairman of the First Committee

The Acting Chairman: This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, as provided for in paragraph 3 of resolution 56/509, adopted by the Assembly at its 106th meeting, held on Monday, 8 July 2002.

The election, pursuant to rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election with only one candidate.

It is my great honour and pleasure to nominate Ambassador Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, the candidate of the African Group of States, to the post of Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Semakula Kiwanuka has been the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations since 1996. He has led many of his country's delegations to United Nations sessions and other international meetings. Prior to becoming Ambassador, he was Executive Director of Uganda's management-training institute, the Management Training and Advisory Centre, which specializes in management training and consultancy to government, the private sector and international organizations.

He was educated at the University of Oxford, where he obtained a postgraduate diploma in development economics, specializing in the role of science and technology in development. He holds a Ph.D. in African history from the University of London and bachelor honours degrees in history from London and Makerere Universities. To reinforce his competence, he undertook post-doctoral specialization through research workshops in science and technology at the Universities of Cambridge, Sussex, Reading and Strathclyde in the United Kingdom.

As Ambassador, he came to the United Nations with substantial knowledge and experience of the United Nations system. From 1985 to 1987, he worked with the United Nations Environment Programme; from 1988 to 1990, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda as Counterpart Chief Technical Adviser and Director of Planning and Project Coordinator for a UNDP project in capacity-building and institutional strengthening at Makarere University. Between 1990 and 1996, he worked extensively in AIDS education awareness programmes. He was also presidential adviser on reconstruction and rehabilitation from 1979 to 1980. He was responsible for aid coordination between the Government of Uganda and international agencies, especially the World Food Programme, the United States Agency for International Development and the European Economic Community. From 1965 to 1984,

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Ambassador Semakula Kiwanuka was active as a university lecturer, researcher and administrator. He published five books and more than 40 articles and reviews in the fields of history, science and technology, economic development, management training, and so forth.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka of Uganda elected Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairman: I would like, on behalf of the Committee and on my own account, to express our sincere and warm congratulations to Ambassador Semakula Kiwanuka on his election as Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-seventh session. I am certain that, with his profound experience and knowledge, he will skilfully conduct the proceedings of the First Committee and will make a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.